

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Second Supplemental Preliminary Amendment prior to examination of the present application. By this Second Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-44 and 46-51 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 52-73 have been added. Accordingly, claims 52-73 are pending in this application. No new matter has been introduced by this Second Supplemental Preliminary Amendment.

In an election of species requirement dated June 23, 2006, the Examiner required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between nine allegedly patentably distinct species of the present invention. Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the species directed to FIGS. 33-40, designated as "Species 5" in the election of species requirement. Applicants submit that claims 52-55, 57-63, and 67-69 read on the elected species. Of these claims, Applicants submit that each of the claims, except claims 58 and 59, are generic to at least one additional species. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 52-55, 57-63, and 67-69 be examined, and that claims 56, 64-66, and 70-73 be withdrawn from consideration.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 28, 2006

By: Elizabeth M. Barker, Reg. No. 38,758
Roland G. McAndrews
Reg. No. 41,450